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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC PRELIMS

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TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>IN NEWS</u>
POLITY	---
ECONOMY	---
GEOGRAPHY	---
HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE	China protests PM's greetings to Dalai Lama on birthday.
ENVIRONMENT	---
SCIENCE & TECH	---
MISCELLANEOUS	---

HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE

In news: China protests PM's greetings to Dalai Lama on birthday.

Buddhism: founder Siddhartha Gautam, born in circa 563 BCE into royal family of Sakya clan who ruled from Kapilvastu, in Lumbini which is situated near the Indo-Nepal Border.

- At the age of 29 embraced a lifestyle of asceticism, or extreme self-discipline.
- After 49 consecutive days of meditation, Gautama attained Bodhi (enlightenment) under a pipal tree at Bodhgaya, a village in Bihar.
- Insisted the 'Madhyam Marg'.

Events	Symbol
1. Janma (Birth)	Elephant
2. Mahabhinishkramana (Renunciation)	Horse
3. Nirvana/Sambodhi (Enlightenment)	Bodhi tree
4. Dharmachakra pravartana (1st sermon)	Wheel
5. Mahaparinirvana (Death)	Stupa

Doctrines of Buddhism:

The four great doctrines of Buddhism are:

- Life is full of sorrow (Dukha).
- There are causes of sorrow (Dukha samudaya).
- This sorrow can be stopped (Dukha Nirodha).
- There is a path leading to the cessation of sorrow, which has been called as Dukha Nirodha Gamini Pratipada.

Eight-Fold Path of Buddhism

Ashtangika marga or eight-fold path (for the elimination of human misery).

- **Right View:** The right knowledge of the cause of suffering, knowledge to end the cause of suffering, and the path to end the suffering.
- **Right Intention:** Right Intent must come from the heart.
- It involves recognising the equality of all life and compassion for all, beginning with yourself.
- **Right Speech:** Right speech involves recognising the truth and awareness of the impact of idle gossip and repeating rumours.
- **Right Action:** Right Action also encompasses the five precepts that the Buddha gave: not to kill, steal, lie, avoid sexual misconduct, and not to take drugs or other intoxicants.
- **Right Livelihood:** Right Livelihood also implies that a Buddhist who can undertake some work, either as part of a Buddhist community or in the workplace or do home-based or community service.

- **Right Effort:** Also called as “right endeavour”, it entails that one should always try to take any action on the goodwill of people.
- **Right Mindfulness:** One should constantly be aware of phenomena affecting the body and mind. This means one must be aware of one’s thoughts, words, and actions.
- **Right Meditation:** Also known as “right meditation”, Right concentration teaches people to focus and concentrate on one thing or object at a time.

Core Principles of Buddhism:

- **Nirvana:** moksha or salvation, ultimate truth.
- **Ahimsa:** Do not commit violence.
- **Sangha:** Gautama Buddha also organised the Sangha, or religious order, which was open to everybody, irrespective of caste and sex.
- **Dhamma:** righteousness.

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